## Case 1:09-cv-02675-KBF Document 302 Filed 03/05/12 Page 1 of 29

12151islc 1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK 2 3 ISLAND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LLC, et al., 4 Plaintiffs, 5 V. 09-CV-2675 (KBF) 6 PROMONTORY INTERFINANCIAL 7 NETWORK, LLC, et al., 8 Defendants. Telephone Conference 9 New York, N.Y. 10 January 5, 2012 1:15 p.m. 11 Before: 12 HON. KATHERINE B. FORREST, 13 District Judge 14 APPEARANCES 15 AMSTER, ROTHSTEIN & EBENSTEIN LLC Attorneys for Plaintiffs 16 BY: CHARLES R. MACEDO, ESQ. 17 ANTHONY F. LO CICERO, ESQ. BENJAMIN CHARKOW, ESQ. 18 SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP 19 Attorneys for Defendants BY: EDWARD G. POPLAWSKI, ESQ. 20 OLIVIA M. KIM, ESQ. JEFFREY A. FINN, ESQ. 21 22 23 24 25

(In chambers)

THE COURT: I now am part of this patent pilot program that the Southern District has started and, you know, you folks may or may not have any additional actions, but I've now got my own individual practice rules on patent cases. And so hopefully there will be a way of proceeding that will be consistent that we'll adopt here.

MR. MACEDO: Your Honor, I will let you know that we did not use the typical patent rules in this case before Judge Marrero and so it started off on that path, and then it got derailed into a different path.

THE COURT: Yeah, okay.

MR. MACEDO: A little different. The other thing --

THE COURT: Counsel, let me just announce that we now have a court reporter present, and I am sorry to ask you to do this again, but could you just announce your appearances again. And now that we have a court reporter, since the record won't reflect who's speaking, I'd ask you to introduce yourself as you speak.

MR. MACEDO: Certainly, your Honor. This is Charles

Macedo, M-A-C-E-D-O. I'm a partner with Amster, Rothstein &

Ebenstein LLC. We are counsel for the plaintiffs. I have with

me my partner Anthony Lo Cicero and our colleague Ben Charkow.

MR. POPLAWSKI: And good afternoon, your Honor. This is Ed Poplawski here with Sidley Austin. Also with me are

Olivia Kim and Jeff Finn, and we are counsel for defendants.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. And as counsel knows, we had started prior to the arrival of the court reporter and I had just discussed the trial date and indicated to counsel that after conferring with Judge Folsom, who has the other action that Mr. Poplawski is involved in, and his colleagues, as well as Judge Marrero and some folks around here, we are going to keep the February 27<sup>th</sup> trial date in this matter and we will proceed today to set some interim dates.

I'd also asked for a chart of claims that remain for the patents that are still at issue and the types of infringement that relate to those claims and patents, and Mr. Macedo has indicated that he will be making a submission on that and plans to simplify in fact further somewhat the plaintiff's claims, and so we'll be getting a submission.

And I guess the infringement contentions were not —
they were part of the summary judgment papers, but I think,
Mr. Macedo, the way it sounds, I won't need a separate
submission on the infringement contentions once I get your
chart.

MR. MACEDO: I think to the extent you want to know what we're accusing, the charts will do it. To the extent you want to understand the evidence that we're relying on, that's what the infringement contentions are. So I'm happy to do whatever your Honor prefers.

THE COURT: Well, once we have the chart, I can then go to summary judgment motions and look that up; right? Or you could put it all together if you'd like, but it sounded a moment ago as if you've already got all that material embodied within the summary judgment papers that you previously submitted.

MR. MACEDO: We do, but because it contains defendant's confidential information, it was filed under seal.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, that may be one of the reasons why it's not sort of popping up on the docket in an obvious way. Well, if it's easy for you to sort of cut and paste and put that stuff in, that would be terrific. What I'm looking for is a way of cutting through this. It sounds like you've got a way of doing that, so I'd appreciate any help you can give.

MR. MACEDO: I think what we can do, your Honor, which will be a little less than the infringement contention, but what we can do is we can give you a copy of our infringement — our infringement expert report without all the attachments and that if you want, we can also give you defendant's noninfringement expert report.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, why don't you also,

Mr. Macedo -- and let me just remind you to state your name as
you speak.

MR. MACEDO: I'm sorry. I apologize.

THE COURT: That's okay. I've now stated it. Why don't you also make sure that any submission you make to me, you have conferred with Mr. Poplawski in advance so that I get something where we're not going to have an exchange of letters as to whether or not it's complete or incomplete or changing something somehow.

MR. MACEDO: In fact, your Honor, what I think might be helpful across the board is if we prepare a joint submission with defendants. In the submission we'll identify the affirmative claims that we're advancing and they can identify the affirmative defenses that they're advancing at trial, so that way you have it all summarized in one place.

THE COURT: Terrific. Okay. And based upon that reduced number of patents and claims, it would be useful also, Mr. Macedo, if you could give an estimate, and you, Mr. Poplawski, could respond, because you have some affirmative claims as well, regarding the estimated length of trial. The trial length I think was based upon an assumption that there might be more at issue than there is going to be at issue, so if you folks, once you've done some of this initial work, could do that, that would be very helpful.

MR. MACEDO: And your Honor, we will include plaintiff's estimate and defendant's can include their estimate.

THE COURT: All right. Now let's move on to some of

the pretrial order submissions that we'll need to get us ready for the 27<sup>th</sup>. In my individual rules, there's some more detail on this. They are actually going to be revised and come out next week.

Oh, I'm actually told that we've gotten them up now. So there will be some of the detail that I'm talking about now there, but there will also be a transcript of this proceeding, so you'll be able to reread it if you'd like.

Let me list the items. There are the typical items you would expect, but let me list the items that we're going to be talking about and the dates that I'm proposing, and then you folks can tell me why they don't work if they don't.

First, I'd like to get a real witness list, with the names of the witnesses, the order of the witnesses, the topics, and the estimated length for the witnesses. And plaintiff would provide that to defendant, defendant would then look at it, and then it would come to the court. Defendants are going to have to obviously add their piece in once they've seen what's at issue.

Now when I say plaintiff, what I'm talking about is where you bear the affirmative burden of proof on an issue, not just sort of the nominal plaintiff on the caption. So a real witness list, a real bona fide witness list without a lot of fluff.

The second item -- and we'll talk about the dates in a

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minute -- is an exhibit list that will contain any objections that either party has with sufficient detail about the objections and the other side's responses to those objections so that I can make a ruling on the evidence prior to trial, as much as possible. Some things are going to be subject to connection or there's going to be authenticity left for trial, but for other things I'll be able to resolve some objections pretrial. So the concept is to get an exhibit list where each side that bears the burden of proof will provide the other side with their proposed exhibits. They'll either be fine or there will be an objection that will be lodged. If there's an objection, you'll want to put in more than just one word, like "hearsay." You'll want to put in why it's hearsay. The other side will then have an opportunity to say, "Well, here's why it's subject to an exception or why it's not hearsay," and then I'll be able to make a ruling on that.

The same thing with respect to deposition designations with one addition, which is to include the complete copies of any depositions from which you are designating as opposed to just the excerpts and to mark in some sort of marker that will copy the portions that you're designating.

So for instance, Mr. Macedo, if you're going to designate some deposition testimony, you would mark that, you had it both on a piece of paper, page X, lines A to B, and then Mr. Poplawski and his colleagues would respond. They may

counterdesignate. They would also mark that on the deposition transcript itself. And they may also object. And if they object, they would state their reason, you would have an opportunity to respond to that reason, and then that all would come to me. And that is much better than just receiving just excerpts, because I'll be able to tell the context and maybe that may help me in making a ruling. I don't mind, I don't care, it doesn't bother me one way or the other whether it's the minuscript or the 26 line. That's irrelevant. Whatever's most convenient for you folks.

Motions in limine also obviously we'll need in advance, including — and I'd like to talk to you just for a moment about whether there are any Daubert motions likely. If there are documents which are going to be at issue and where you'd normally make a motion in limine, if they're otherwise dealt with in the context — or deposition testimony — in the context of the other two submissions I just talked about, which is an exhibit list that's got objections and responses and deposition designations with objections and responses, you need not make a separate motion in limine. That can be deemed a motion in limine and we'll deal with it in that fashion. So motions in limine would be anticipated to be something that is really different from the exhibits, from the deposition testimony that you'll already have dealt with.

Then we obviously would have voir dire and jury

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Let me see. I'm just going to sort of go through some of the dates, and these dates, to the court, are dates which I'm pretty attached to. The dates as between the two of you, I'm going to make some suggestions. What I want to avoid is a situation where somebody expects to get something on a particular day and doesn't get it, so I do want to have something that is so ordered for the date, but you folks can make suggestions as between the two of you to me as to what dates would work best. But let me give you what I had outlined, which was for the witness list, that it would come to the court on January 19<sup>th</sup>, and that means that for the parties bearing the affirmative burden of proof, they would provide it to the other side on the  $12^{th}$ , and the other side would then have an opportunity to add witnesses if they need to add witnesses as a result of whatever they see on the witness list. For the exhibit list, I have that coming to the court on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February, so February 8<sup>th</sup>. I had preliminary dates which are moveable, but we want to again get something set down. January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>. So January 25<sup>th</sup> for the party proposing the exhibit for which they bear the affirmative burden of proof and then February 1<sup>st</sup> for the response. I'm sorry. Did I say January? January 25<sup>th</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup> are the two dates, coming to me on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Deposition designations is the

same.

Motions in limine, if there are going to be Daubert motions, it would be terrific to get those by the end of this month, but we could push that by a couple of days if you needed to. Voir dire on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February and jury instructions on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February. For jury instructions, the voir dire can come in separately. If you can get joint voir dire, all the better, but I'm not wedded to that. But for the jury instructions, the two dates I had for the party proposing and then the party responding are February 3<sup>rd</sup> and February 10<sup>th</sup>, coming to me on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

So why don't we talk a little bit generally about those dates and whether or not they're going to work. The reason for putting things behind the  $27^{th}$  is that I am concerned that you folks are going to object to a lot of documents and a lot of deposition designations and I'm going to be making a lot of rulings on those kinds of things, and I don't want to get jammed by having everything come in three days before trial.

MR. MACEDO: Your Honor, your dates are acceptable to plaintiff.

MR. POPLAWSKI: Your Honor, this is Ed Poplawski, and these proposed dates are fine. May I ask a point of clarification or two?

THE COURT: Absolutely.

MR. POPLAWSKI: Does the court entertain jury questionnaires?

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THE COURT: I have been talking to people. You folks know that I am one of the new folks on the bench. I have been volunteering and have done already some trials, and so I've been talking to a lot of people about the way in which they conduct them, and I have not found them to be useful. folks believe they would be useful, I have found already that I am learning a great deal about opinions that I've held in my short time and have changed. So we could consider it. But we wouldn't want anything very long. The goal for the jury is to get it picked as quickly as possible and as a result, I will use the, I'll tell you, the box method as opposed to something else because it will move -- we've done both -- much more quickly. And so the biggest issue here is going to be the length of trial, and so that's where we're going to get obviously the most push-back from folks, but I would hope that we can actually be at opening statements by sometime early afternoon of the first day.

MR. POPLAWSKI: One other point, your Honor. This relates to the trial itself. In some of the past cases that I've had — trials, that is — that the court has permitted transition statements, where you get a certain amount of time then allocated to you, and it can range from anywhere from 10 to 15 minutes throughout the trial, and you use a certain

amount of that, either -- after a witness is done testifying, you make a short transitional statement to the jury. Does the court have any thoughts in that regard?

THE COURT: Well, let me think about that. My only concern is, understanding sort of a little bit in advance as to what you're going to do, because it's not going to fit the typical format of an opening or a closing, and so we would want to make sure -- Mr. Poplawski, I know you're very experienced and skilled at this. We would want to make sure that whatever is said to the jury is within the bounds of what the jury really should be hearing. That's my only concern.

MR. POPLAWSKI: Understood, your Honor, and I'm sure we'll have an opportunity to dialogue about this in the future.

THE COURT: Well, why don't you confer. Mr. Macedo, do you have an initial reaction to transition statements?

MR. MACEDO: I think I have to understand a little better what Mr. Poplawski is talking about before I could say yes or no on that. You know, it depends. Because obviously we don't want to be in the position where the lawyer is becoming a witness.

THE COURT: Well, and what we don't want to do, I think, also in front of the jury -- but Mr. Poplawski, maybe what you can do is, you know, write a short letter or something to us where you explain what it is you're thinking of, or you and Mr. Macedo may be better off conferring about it and seeing

if you can come up with a joint position and then the court will consider it. What we want to do is avoid having lawyer argument as to what's been heard, you know, "What you have just heard, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, is that claim X means blah, blah, blah, " or that, "there's been testimony that claim X means blah, blah, blah and what that translates into in layperson's language is blah, blah, blah." And, you know, the problem, as you folks know -- you do these cases all the time -- is that a lot of this is going to go over the jury's head, and particularly given the subject matter of these patents and the kind of jury you're likely to get. These are not people who are going to have FDIC-insured accounts, let alone multiple accounts where they need to have them swept on a regular basis. I might be wrong, but these are going to be a multitude of novel concepts to these folks.

But Mr. Poplawski, within the bounds of what obviously would be deemed acceptable, if you want to confer with Mr. Macedo, I would be absolutely willing to think about and look at whatever you would like to suggest.

MR. POPLAWSKI: Thank you, your Honor.

MR. MACEDO: Your Honor, this is Mr. Macedo again.

Could I ask a few clarifying questions?

THE COURT: Sure.

MR. MACEDO: The first clarifying question is, what's your view about deposition testimony of people that will be

live witnesses?

THE COURT: Well, my view is that those people, that should really be used only in terms of cross-examination. I mean, I would hope that you would not take up juror time by reading in -- I don't even know that you can. For some you can. But I would assume that you just use it as cross-examination.

MR. MACEDO: Okay. The second question is that, obviously to prove infringement, it's going to depend upon use of deposition testimony and documents we have from defendants as to how their systems work, or -- or the live testimony of defendant's witnesses. What's your view in terms of plaintiff calling defendant's witnesses as part of our case in chief?

THE COURT: Well, I mean, if you want to call them as a hostile witness, that's your choice. You can list them on your witness list. You should list them on your witness list in the order in which you're going to intend to call them. I don't want to have folks be surprised. And you're going to have to get Mr. X, Y, or Z here on time on the first day if you plan on calling him or her as one of your, you know, first witnesses. So, you know, calling a witness in a hostile capacity is obviously fine under the rules.

MR. MACEDO: One of the things that I've been involved with in the past when we've had trials I think before Judge Preska, what she had us do was to keep the plaintiff's case

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open and just to call the witness once on the defendant's side and allow the plaintiff to do their examination at that time.

I'm happy to do whatever the court prefers on that.

THE COURT: Well, calling the witness once makes a lot of sense in terms of efficiency as well as I would assume tactically in terms of how you want to get the story told. So I mean, that makes sense to me. If somebody says, "Look, I don't want to do my direct of this witness in the context of almost quasicross-examination of my own witness," because you, Mr. Macedo, have called one of Mr. Poplawski's witnesses in a hostile capacity, then I would entertain the concept of having that person called twice if they want to be and are amenable to be bothering twice. I mean, that's really sort of an issue for you folks to deal with the witness on. But I would hope that we would try to not use the jury's time inefficiently. jury, as you know, will certainly be looking for ways in which you annoy them. And if they find that you're recalling witnesses and they think, "Why couldn't they have done this before," and it's taken two extra days for them and they hoped they could be back at work, or wherever they're going to go, then that's going to not redound to your own benefit.

MR. MACEDO: So if the parties can work it out that each witness is called only once and that the cases -- that the respective cases are left open with respect to those witnesses, you would not object to that as the trial --

THE COURT: Well, let me, I think, put it a little bit differently, which is for the party bearing the burden of proof, let's just assume for just ease of reference here, Mr. Macedo, that obviously, you know, you'll start off, if you got a witness from Mr. Poplawski where you intend to call that witness hostile, you should do so, so that you would not -- what I want to make sure is that at the end of your case, your case should rest.

MR. MACEDO: Okay.

THE COURT: It really becomes an issue for Mr. Poplawski in terms of whether or not he wants to do his direct examination in the context of your case.

MR. MACEDO: Okay. That's very helpful, your Honor.

Now just to clarify another point going to the affirmative burden, the way patent law works is, as plaintiffs, it's our burden to prove infringement and damages, and as defendants, it's their burden to prove invalidity.

THE COURT: Which is why I've been talking about who bears the burden of proof on a particular issue, for precisely that reason.

MR. MACEDO: Right. So from what I understand from what you've described, and I just want clarified, we would come forward with our case on infringement and damages and then close our case when we're done with it, and then defendant will come forward with their noninfringement and invalidity case,

and then we would present a rebuttal case with respect to the validity issues.

THE COURT: Well, that would be the way I would think it would typically work.

Mr. Poplawski, do you have a different vision?

MR. POPLAWSKI: Your Honor, that presents an interesting question. Mr. Macedo certainly set forth the traditional way of doing that. We do have counterclaims for declaratory relief, and some courts in the past have allowed a kind of a surrebuttal for the defendants as to validity. But why don't I confer with Mr. Macedo about this. I'm inclined to keep it with the traditional way, but I'd like to confer.

THE COURT: Okay. Why don't you folks confer about that as well and let me know where you come out. That will obviously show up -- well, no, it probably won't. If you're going to have rebuttal, it won't show up on your witness list necessarily because you won't know what's going to happen until you see it. All right. Well, let me know what's going to happen.

MR. MACEDO: Do you want us to include anticipated rebuttal witnesses?

THE COURT: If you know of them now, yes, and if you can tell based upon who they're calling who you intend to call, then, yes.

MR. MACEDO: Yeah. I mean, to give you a little

background on the patent law, when it comes to the invalidity case, we will be recalling our expert who does the infringement to do the validity response. So we'll know that he'll be in the rebuttal case, for example.

THE COURT: Yes. Now speaking of experts, let's talk about Daubert.

MR. MACEDO: Okay.

THE COURT: Do either of you anticipate at this time making any Daubert motions?

MR. POPLAWSKI: Your Honor, defendants do.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Macedo, do you?

MR. MACEDO: I'm not positive yet whether we plan to or not.

earlier date for those, as you may have noticed when I went through it, and these dates, by the way, not only will there be a transcript but there will be an order that will set these forth. But the decisions on those, depending upon the nature of the testimony, can be somewhat more involved and so that's why January 30<sup>th</sup> was the date for that.

MR. POPLAWSKI: Your Honor, this is Ed Poplawski. A point of additional clarification. I anticipate that any Daubert motions that we do file will be combined Daubert and motions in limine as relates to the expert in question.

THE COURT: Yes. I would expect so.

MR. MACEDO: Your Honor, it is possible that depending upon what motion they intend to make, what we would likely do is a cross-motion with respect to the corresponding type of testimony that their expert is offering, based on that motion.

THE COURT: Well, what we will need to do is to set up a rational briefing schedule, because it's not going to be able to proceed with a normal time frames, obviously. And so if you're planning on cross-moving, I mean, you're not going to cross-move on the same expert. You mean, "If they go after our expert, we're going to go after theirs"?

MR. MACEDO: Yeah. If they're saying our technical expert isn't qualified for reasons X, Y, and Z and those reasons would equally apply to their technical expert, we would say that -- we would want the ability to file a cross-motion based upon the same grounds.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, let's make sure that we have a little bit of clarity on this, which is that if you believe today, or as you investigate this between now and January 30<sup>th</sup>, that you have got a reasonable basis or you've got a legal basis to make a *Daubert* motion with respect to a particular expert witness, you will do so affirmatively, and what you're suggesting is that you would essentially oppose a motion and say, "We think that that methodology is perfectly appropriate but if you find it's inappropriate here, then you would have to find that their witness engaged in the same

methodology and therefore theirs should be excluded as well," that would be the one time when that might work.

MR. MACEDO: Perhaps if the defendants can share with us what their intended <code>Daubert</code> --

THE COURT: I'm not going to ask Mr. Poplawski to do that right now. He can if he wants to with you separately. But I think what I will do is we will include in our order a briefing schedule that will make a provision for potential cross-motion, but I would encourage you that if you think you've got a motion that you want to bring, that you bring it, you know, without waiting for the cross-motion opportunity.

MR. MACEDO: Of course, your Honor. We'll essentially wait --

MR. POPLAWSKI: I would submit that the dates that the court set is fish or cut bait time. If you have a motion in limine or a Daubert motion to make, you should make it. And then both parties can confer among themselves as to whether they want to modify or drop their motions afterwards, but to allow cross-motion practice as Mr. Macedo is contemplating I think is prejudicial to the defendant.

THE COURT: Well, you know, the issue -- and I don't disagree with you in some respects, Mr. Poplawski. The issue, I think, that I'm at least thinking about right now is, if it were the case that there was a methodology that was used by both experts, by two experts, one for each side, first of all,

I would think that it would be tactically not a good choice to make a motion against the other side's expert if they use that methodology as failing under Daubert if you know your own expert has used that methodology, so it's sort of hard to imagine. But let's imagine that that tactical decision is made and you move against the methodology of Mr. Macedo's witness. Your person has used exactly the same methodology and so they meet on all fours. There is a point that if one fails, they should both fail, and the failure to make a motion in advance shouldn't preclude that. That might be something which the court could deal with sua sponte. Let me think about it, and it will either show up on the briefing schedule as an opportunity for cross-motions or it won't, which is the fish or cut bait version, Mr. Poplawski, that you have mentioned.

MR. POPLAWSKI: Thank you, your Honor.

MR. MACEDO: Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. MACEDO: Your Honor, do you need any requests or suggestions as to number of jurors from counsel?

THE COURT: Well, you know, what I had thought we would do was go with 14. We may end up going with even an extra juror because of the length of the trial. I'd like to see how long you think this trial is going to be. The problem is that you've got, you know, obviously the two factors that are most difficult working against you. You've got a patent

trial and you've got a long patent trial, and those are both 1 unsavory things for the juror pool here in Manhattan. Have you 2 3 folks had experience where you've found a magic number? MR. MACEDO: Well, I'm just thinking of Judge 4 5 Marrero's order by comparison, his individual practice. He was 6 suggesting that you could have as few as six jurors deliberate, 7 with a total of eight on the panel. THE COURT: No. I think we're going to certainly go 8 9 with twelve as our grouping, as our initial grouping, with some 10 additionals. 11 MR. MACEDO: And does it require unanimity or 12 majority? 13 THE COURT: No, it will require unanimity. 14 MR. MACEDO: Okay. 15 MR. POPLAWSKI: Your Honor, while we're on that topic, I suppose I should ask, is it contemplated that the --16 17 THE COURT: I'm sorry. You cut out for one second. 18 MR. POPLAWSKI: Are you going to have -- if a juror is in the box, does that juror get to be involved in deliberation? 19 20 THE COURT: If the juror is in the box? 21 MR. POPLAWSKI: Yes. If you've got 12 jurors, are 22 they all going to be involved in the deliberations? 23 THE COURT: Yes. 24 MR. POPLAWSKI: They'll all make it through trial. 25 THE COURT: Yes.

MR. MACEDO: Your Honor, one date you haven't given us is a date of a final pretrial conference in advance of the trial.

THE COURT: Yes, I've got that date. I had my deputy hand me a date.

February 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30. Now you will be receiving in advance various rulings on various things, depending upon what you give me, and I don't think at this point that we'll have oral argument on many of these issues — for instance, the Daubert or the evidentiary objections — unless we need it. If it turns out that there's a particular issue that, you know, I believe there needs to be oral argument on, then we'll have it. But otherwise, you'll start getting some rulings.

MR. MACEDO: I'm sorry, your Honor. What time did you say on February  $21^{\text{st}}$ ?

THE COURT: 4:30.

MR. MACEDO: 4:30?

THE COURT: Yeah. And all of these dates and that time will all be reflected in an order that will pop up on ECF.

MR. MACEDO: Your Honor, there is one thing that Judge Marrero did leave open, docket entry 221, Special Master Martens' report and recommendation with respect to the last summary judgment motion that defendants filed, and it hasn't yet been adopted because the time hasn't expired for defendants to put in objections on that one, so I just wanted to let your

Honor be aware that that is out there and that that order will need to be ruled on.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. POPLAWSKI: Your Honor, this is Ed Poplawski, and we have apprised plaintiff's counsel we're going to be filing our objections on January  $9^{\mbox{th}}$ .

THE COURT: All right. Well, then when those come in, I'll, you know, take a look at your objections and we'll proceed from there.

MR. MACEDO: Your Honor, with respect to the special master's rulings in the past, the procedure that Judge Marrero had instituted was for defendants to put in their objections and only if he needed anything from plaintiffs to respond to the objections where he might not otherwise adopt the order did he ask us to submit a response.

THE COURT: You know, if you don't feel like you want to respond, that's fine. If you feel like you want to respond and you've got something to say, then you should let us know immediately, because I may take action, and if you feel like you haven't had an opportunity to be heard, then in terms of at least paper submission, then you should let us know. But if there's anything you want to say, then e-mail the clerk and all parties.

MR. MACEDO: Well, I think that, based upon what you're saying, we'll want an opportunity to respond to whatever

objections they put in then.

THE COURT: Well, you know, for instance, let's assume for the moment that Mr. Poplawski puts in objections that I find to be quite persuasive and I don't feel like I need anything from you because I have found them to be very persuasive and I personally don't think I needed to hear from you. You would be, I think, quite annoyed if I then don't adopt something that was perhaps in your favor with the special master and I end up reversing that.

MR. MACEDO: Absolutely, your Honor. What the intent I think of the procedure Judge Marrero had implemented was that he already has advised us previously that he had read the report and recommendation and intended to adopt it but wanted to give defendants the opportunity to preserve any objections they had with respect to the report and recommendation and therefore he allowed — he actually directed the parties to meet and confer and have defendants file as quickly as possible any objections they had about — to adopt the report and recommendation, and to the extent that any of the objections that defendant had actually rang a bell, then he would have provided plaintiff an opportunity to respond to them.

THE COURT: Well, I don't know if it's a good thing or a bad thing, but it is certainly the way it works. When a case is transferred, I get to change some of the procedures. And I have also read the special master's reports that have come

down, and what I would suggest is, I do want to make sure that if there are objections that are going to be made that defendants will make them, and that if you've got anything you want to say in response, that we have that also noted for the record.

MR. MACEDO: Okay. Well, then we will definitely put in responses, so we'll need to ask an appropriate timetable for those.

THE COURT: All right. I don't know how extensive they're going to be or what the nature of them is going to be, but why don't you, immediately upon receiving them, confer with Mr. Poplawski about a schedule.

MR. MACEDO: Okay, your Honor.

MR. POPLAWSKI: Your Honor, this is Ed Poplawski. I know that the court's pressed for time. I'd like to just go back to the trial commencement date for a moment, just to make sure I understand everything correctly.

So as I understand it, the court conferred with Judge Folsom, and both trial dates are going to hold at this time, and there's going to be further conferring among the judges themselves. One of the thoughts in mind is that we start the February 27<sup>th</sup> trial in this case and then the thought is that I could shuttle to Marshall, Texas for the opening statements there and come back. I'd just like to point out that I know that there's unintentionally going to be further developments

here in both cases in terms of winnowing it down, etc., but this is potentially an unworkable situation for me, as I need to not only be present in two places at one time, but there's also at least two team members that would need to be as well, but I understand that the dates hold for now, and we're going to do our best to proceed in that regard.

THE COURT: I hear you, Mr. Poplawski, and what I would say -- and you have I think certainly correctly stated the court's position -- is that because of the number of lawyers who are involved, it is likely that there could be coverage in both places on any particular date, and there's lots of flights from New York to Texas all the time. So I do understand that it puts you in a very difficult position, but we believe that it is a workable situation at this point in time.

MR. POPLAWSKI: Understood, your Honor. And just by way of clarification then, there's basically three lawyers in both cases that are the core team — that's me, Mr. Finn, and Ms. Kim. The other members of the team have knowledge about certain other aspects, predominantly on the damages side, I would say, so there is a need for at least three of us present in each place. But I appreciate the court's position and we're going to — we're going to proceed.

THE COURT: Okay. Is there anything else that the parties would like to raise or that I can assist with you at

this time?

MR. MACEDO: Your Honor, there is one potential issue, depending upon what defendants say and the issues that they want to try. They raised the defense on inequitable conduct which is — we don't think that they've met their burden on it, but putting that aside, if — it's an issue that's generally tried before the judge in a bench trial, not before a jury, and inequity is something that the judge would decide, and to the extent that they are pursuing that, we will likely have a motion in limine as well as a motion to bifurcate on the issue, and I just wanted to bring that to your Honor's attention.

THE COURT: Okay. I haven't seen anything in my review of the materials that suggests that the defendants are dropping that. Mr. Poplawski?

MR. POPLAWSKI: No, your Honor, we're not dropping it at this time, and I think this is all part of the dialogue that's going to go on between the parties on winnowing down the case.

THE COURT: All right. Well, then I hear that you may have a motion in limine, Mr. Macedo, and if you do, you do.

MR. MACEDO: Thank you, your Honor. I just wanted to bring that to your attention so you're aware of the issue.

THE COURT: Okay. Thanks.

MR. MACEDO: But we have nothing further at this time and we appreciate the court's assistance in this matter. Thank

you.

THE COURT: All right. Well, then there will be a transcript of this proceeding which you folks can get from the clerk's office if you would like. The date and times of the various items that we have talked about will be set forth in an order, as I've said, that will show up on ECF.

MR. MACEDO: Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Thanks, everyone. Bye-bye.